General Recommendations:

(Refer to General Recommendations for Agriculture/Horticulture Sector.)

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY: WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES.

poultry raising
- egg selling
- chicken selling

goat raising
sheep raising
- processing/marketing of dairy products
- processing/marketing of wool products

dairy cow raising
- processing/marketing of dairy products

bee-keeping/honey production/marketing
silkworm raising/silk production/marketing
fishery management/marketing of fish

3. HEALTH:

The pressing health needs of Afghan women and their families demand that this sector be given a top priority in rehabilitation plans in both urban and rural Afghanistan. It is a recognized need of the local populace, and health-related activities are usually given utmost support. Participation by females in projects in this sector is often seen as more legitimate and acceptable by the local population than in others, although implementation is never easy.

The lack of trained female health workers especially in rural areas is striking. This greatly limits access of many women to suitable medical care, especially in the area of obstetrics and gynaeocology in cases of emergency. Indeed, the maternal mortality rate is very high at 690/100,000 live births. Male practitioners may be often consulted by women for their general ailments but not for ob/gyn problems.

Modern medicine is greatly desired by Afghans; however, due to the lack of modern facilities, sometimes prohibitive costs, or preference, many Afghans continue to depend on traditional

medicine. A number of traditional health practitioners are active in both rural and urban settings; in the area of MCH one of the most active is the dai (traditional birth attendant), who is usually an older woman of the community who has accumulated years of experience in perinatal care. And, in general, in the typical household the housewife is the primary provider of home-based health care for her family members.

Numerous NGOs have been involved in health projects for Afghans in the refugee camps, and many of these have had women as their beneficiaries. Over the years the Afghan refugees' expectations in the area of health care have changed, and today many of them--both women and men--will be returning to their country with new demands in this area.

Immunizations:

In the area of immunization, UNICEF, WHO, and various NGOs have been active in providing females with tetanus toxoid as part of the general EPI programme, working either cross-border from Pakistan or from Kabul and Afghanistan's other urban centers. Females from 5 years to 45 years receive this protection. It is best to vaccinate young girls before they reach puberty and perhaps become secluded. In most communities the majority of women are able to be immunized by male vaccinators, although in some settings this is not possible due to sociocultural restrictions and misunderstandings about the purpose of the vaccine.

MCH (Mother and Child Health) and Female Health Worker Training:

Working cross-border inside Afghanistan in rural regions in the area of health care are many NGOs who have built up considerable expertise over the past years. Some of those which have an active MCH component to their projects are: AMI (Aide Medicale Internationale), AVICEN (Afghanistan Vaccination and Immunization Centre), MSH (Management Sciences for Health), NAC (Norwegian Afghanistan Committee), and SCA (Swedish Committee) which all have their head offices in Peshawar, and HU (Health Unlimited) and Shuhada Clinic which are based in Quetta.

A complex array of different types of health workers have been trained by these and other groups, some of whom are based in stationary clinics while others are based in their communities. Thus at present there are a number of piecemeal portions of health care systems spread throughout Afghanistan. It remains to be seen how these disparate groups will link up to form larger referral systems and perhaps coordinate in the future with the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) in Kabul.

At the local level, the dai (traditional birth attendant)

can become a valuable member of the referral hierarchy, working in coordination with other modern health practitioners such as nurse-midwives and physicians. AMI, AVICEN, HU, NAC, and MSH have all been active in training dais inside Afghanistan. (3) These undertakings were begun following the establishment of other components and the development of trust with the local populace.

MSH, in coordination with the MOPH prior to its move to Kabul, has also established in Peshawar a cadre of salaried midlevel female health workers known as MCHO (Mother and Child Health Officers). These women are to be based at MCH posts at the sub-district level or at the MCHO clinics at the district level in the future.

In the refugee camps, SCF/UK (Save the Children) began their volunteer FHW (Female Health Worker) training two years after they had begun to instruct males (CHWs). Many husband-wife teams have been successful in this project. As the refugees move back, SCF/UK is now coordinating with SCA, which has extensive health care delivery activities throughout Afghanistan, so that their trained health workers can continue their work. It should be noted that out of a total of 1400 salaried health workers presently working in Afghanistan with the Swedish Committee, only 12 are female. Such statistics illustrate the problems in engaging women's participation as health personnel especially in rural regions.

Health Education and Awareness:

HERC (Health Education Resource Center), which is part of IRC in Peshawar, provides various UN agencies (UNICEF, UNDCP, WHO, UNDP/OPS, etc.) and NGOs with colorful silkscreen posters for their training undertakings. These posters have been especially effective in the area of MCH; non-literate women can receive valuable health-related messages in the context of clinic visits or in their households. Visual aids such as these should be disseminated throughout Afghanistan as projects are established.

Health education is a crucial component of a project, and efforts should be made to expand activities in this area in the future. Groups such as SCA and IRC in Peshawar have perfected curricula through which to train health education personnel; the IRC courses have included both males and females.

In Kabul and Mazar Sharif, UNICEF has trained more than 500 women leaders in 3-day seminars which focus upon the child survival messages contained in the volume, "Facts For Life." The Afghan Women's Council identified these leaders from the urban areas, and they are supposed to return to their communities and spread the word. It is meant to be an on-going undertaking, with

the topics of safe drinking water and sanitation to be included in future courses.

Intersectoral Linkages: Health and Income Generation

A planned activity by UNICEF/Kabul and the Afghan Women's Council holds much potential in not only the area of nutritional supplementation for children but also that of income generation for poor urban women. The Nutrition Section had planned to establish a unit in Kabul for the preparation and packaging of weaning food made from a special recipe containing chickpeas, corn, wheat, and other ingredients.

A number of very poor women had been designated to work at the Afghan Women's Council, frying, grinding, and packaging the food. This would be called Ard-i-Magavi (Nutritious Flour), and it would be distributed free to MCH clinics in Kabul to poor women with children of weaning age. It was planned to sell the substance at various stores in the city in the future.

More recently, WHO in Peshawar has suggested that their malaria programme also dovetail with income generation activities for women in Afghanistan. At present they are distributing bednets in limited numbers inside Afghanistan which have been manufactured in Thailand. Malaria is especially prevalent in Nangarhar, Paktia, Kandahar, and Helmand in the southern regions of the country. Pre-testing of bednets in refugee camps by MSF (Medecins San Frontieres)/Belgium showed that they were used, and the malaria rate was subsequently reduced by 70%; later the refugees purchased all of the nets for 100 rupees each.

Production units containing a number of sewing machines could be set up in Jalalabad or Kandahar for interested urban women who would assemble to sew the bednets; netting is available in Lahore, or other markets could be explored. Rural women could also participate. Resulting bednets would supply the WHO malaria programme, along with the possibility of selling the nets in other regions of the country as the market indicated. A health education component stressing malaria prevention, sanitation, etc., in coordination with UNICEF could be also be incorporated into this intersectoral undertaking. MSF is interested in pursuing this topic in Afghanistan in the future.

General Recommendations:

1. Every effort should be made to strengthen and link various fragments of health referral systems in both rural and urban Afghanistan as access to various regions increases, and both refugees and organizations move into the country. This may mean the meshing of different NGOs' health personnel and

volunteers.

2. The need for trained female health workers is crucial, especially in the area of perinatal care. At present the official policy of the government concerning women's employment is somewhat indefinite. In any case, culturally appropriate means of increasing women's access to modern health care must be developed which are tailor-made to the region or community. Husband-wife teams of health workers in rural regions are one generic solution which holds promise.

3. In those cases where only male health workers exist, refresher training courses should incorporate general information as to how to reach female members of the community with health information and treatment, with special emphasis on coordinating their activities with local <u>dais</u>.

4. Health education should be expanded and perfected, with special communications techniques being imparted to health workers. The many types of health education tools presently being utilized by health projects working with Afghans (especially those based in Peshawar) should be reviewed by a commitee/workshop of individuals who have been working with them in the field. Special social communications kits for health education should then be developed which include those visual aids, etc., which have proved to be most successful. For literate health workers, small "how-to" books about communications of MCH messages written in the relevant local languages could be developed.

5. A series of dramas or songs about the major MCH messages should be developed in the major local languages of Afghanistan and recorded on cassettes for use with tape recorders. Uzbek and Turkman women very infrequently speak Farsi or Pushtu, and they are seldom reached by health projects in a meaningful way. These could be utilized by health workers in the field or simply be distributed to households for personal family use.

6. Although halth messages broadcast on radio and television are not enough in and of themselves, they are listened to and appreciated by the local population--especially by women who spend much of the time in their compounds. These should be continued--on international and local channels--along with being enhanced with clarification and discussion during any home visits of health workers.

D. WATER AND SANITATION:

In many regions of Afghanistan, women are the major individuals who carry water from its source into the household, which is usually a time-consuming and difficult daily task. They are also responsible for its storage and utilization. Thus their participation in water projects is crucial. They can participate as:

acceptors of a project's activities
users of water facilities
managers of water facilities
diffusers of new technology.

UNDP/OPS in both Peshawar and in northern Afghanistan is interested in encouraging participation of women in their projects in these areas. UNDP/OPS/Peshawar is especially concerned with women's roles in potable water projects and the development of technology to ease water transport from source to household. UNDP/OPS/Mazar Sharif has proposed a project in Northern Rural Rehabilitation/Roads, Irrigation, and Water Supply in which a Women in Development specialist is expected to participate in finding ways in which rural Afghan women can better participate in the general rehabilitation process.

Some NGOs are also active in this sector in rural Afghanistan. For example, DACAAR (Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees) has been active in constructing hand pumps and shallow wells in Kunar, Paktia, and Kandahar. Importantly, one of the social criteria used to establish the location of a specific water source is that it must be where parda (seclusion) restrictions for women do not prevent access by females of the community.

In the refugee camps in NWFP, a few NGOs such as ARC and SCF/UK have stressed water and sanitation in their health projects. SCF/UK is now teaming up with SCA, which has many active health projects throughout rural Afghanistan, and UNICEF. They have written a proposal to follow a group of repatriating refugees from camps in which SCF/UK has been active back to their home communities. Special attention is to be paid to returning women and the health messages they may carry with them--especially those in the area of water and sanitation. SCA is also presently sponsoring a pilot project in preventive health education in Afghanistan; male preventive health teachers speak with women at clinics or in their communities about water and sanitation issues. The processes of exchange of information between the returnees and those who never left will be studied in detail, and results should be interesting and important.

Also of note, in both Balochistan and NWFP there are reports that returning refugees are taking the cement slabs of their latrines back to Afghanistan with them; these were built through

UNHCR and NGO projects. This is another case of how refugees' expectations havwe been altered over the years of camp life and health projects.

In urban Afghanistan in the area of water and sanitation, UNICEF/Kabul has been active in providing potable water supply to a number of hospitals throughout the city, such as the Maternity Hospital, along with schools and mosques. Similar work has been undertaken in Mazar Sharif and Herat.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Needs of a community must first be ascertained. Where people have a felt need for clean and potable water is the best location at which to start such a project. Needs and problems of women in this sector should be ascertained too. With the acceptance of the community, women could be active in all stages of a water project: planning, implementation, maintenance, evaluation, etc.

2. Rapid research about people's beliefs and practices dealing with water and sanitation should be accomplished early on in a project. This includes learning the details of traditional methods of water procurement, utlization and storage, and basic concepts of what is considered clean and not clean, and why.

3. Women as well as men should be actively consulted about where to locate any new water source in the community.

4. In consultation with both women and men, new technologies for water carrying from source to household can be developed. These should be tailor-made based upon a rapid study of traditional water procurement methods and perceived needs.

5. Training courses should be prepared which inform both women and men of simple methods of how to maintain and repair a handpump, etc. This implies access to basic tools and spare parts. Cleaning and upkeep of areas surrounding wells, etc., can also be part of such training dealing with the water source itself.

6. All efforts should be made to involve female staff in these projects. This will depend on the location of the community, along with the orientation of the populace--along with that of the government in Kabul.

7. Health education is a crucial component of this type of project. Links can be made between UNDP/OPS, UNICEF, and NGOs with water and sanitation health education curricula such as ARC and SCA. Important areas include water storage/protection, kitchen hygiene, latrine use, hand-washing, etc.

8. Latrine construction is of utmost importance. Provision of water for household gardens and small orchards within compounds could be made by building small tanks, etc. The construction of cement slabs for clothes washing near the water source or other locations such as inside compounds is also important.

9. With stress on an integrated approach, income generating activities for women which apply directly to the subject of water and sanitation should be fostered. These include such activities as:

soap making
shelf construction for cooking utensils
water pot cover making
gardening.

E. INCOME GENERATION

Long before the establishment of assistance projects and programmes, both rural and urban Afghan women have traditionally engaged in a variety of home-based income generating activities throughout the country. These economic undertakings have furnished needed supplementation to their household budgets.

Women's participation in agriculture and animal husbandry and related income generating activities have been previously discussed in earlier sections of this report. Here we are concerned with activities such as the following which, when products are sold, bring money into the household.

GENERAL INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES OF AFGHAN WOMEN

tailoring
embroidery
  shirt-fronts
  hats
  decoration pieces
knitting
quilt-making
rug-weaving
  flatweave
  looped
felt-making
belt-weaving
beadwork

pottery-making

soap-making
candle-making

pottery-making

baking of cookies, cakes, breads, etc
candy-making

In recent years a number of specific projects have been undertaken by UN agencies and NGOs to enhance the generation of income by women through the support of both traditional activities and the establishment of new ones. These projects are now going on both in the refugee camps of NWFP and Balochistan, and in Afghanistan itself.

Due to the disruption of local economies caused by recent unrest, the impoverishment, division, and migration of many family units, and the growth in the number of widows, the present need for money is acute among many Afghans. Projects most often attempt to involve widows and extremely poor women in their income generation activities. Training and apprenticeship frequently provide the potential for improved self-sufficiency on the part of women following the close of a project.

Tailoring/Embroidery/Handicraft:

Although projects in the general area of tailoring/embroidery/handicraft may be considered by some to be exploitative of a woman's time and effort, along with often necessitating donor subsidization, it should be remembered that in the Afghan socio-cultural context this is perceived by both men and women as very legitimate female work. Rather than introduce novel activities, a number of organizations choose to enhance the traditional. After gaining the trust of the community, other undertakings may be introduced at a later date more successfully.

Among the Afghan refugee camp populace, some major NGOs which have been active in the area of tailoring/embroidery/handicraft with support from UNHCR include the following:

NWFP:

- AWRC (Afghan Women's Resource Center)
- DACAAR (Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees)
- NRC (Norwegian Refugee Council)
- Ockenden Venture
- SCF/US (Save the Children Fund/US)

Balochistan:

- CRS (Catholic Relief Services)
- EIL (Experiment in International Living)
- IRC (International Rescue Committee)

Quality-control methods have developed over the years, and markets (both international and local) have been established by the various organizations. (4) After training/apprenticeship and proof of quality work, participating women receive sewing machines and other supplies.

Working cross-border in Afghanistan in tailoring/embroidery/ handicraft are fewer organizations, although a number of the ones included in the above list have voiced interest in moving their activities into the country when feasible. Those active in Afghanistan at present are:

SCF/US (in Nangarhar, Ghazni, and Baghlan)
OXFAM (in Kunduz, Baghlan, Ghor, Bamiyan, and Parwan)

Often kits of thread, cloth, etc., are provided to the women which are then collected at a later date when completed. A number of NGOs have found it worthwhile to employ married couples who make contact with communities and individual households. Most organizations work on a house-to house basis rather than establishing a general meeting place for females to assemble.

Rug-weaving is another traditional undertaking being supported in both the camps and Afghanistan by NGOs. In the refugee camps IRC (International Rescue Committee) and SJAWO (Sayed Jamaluddin Afghani Welfare organization) have had small projects. Inside Afghanistan FRF (Farah Reconstruction Foundation) and VARA (Volunteer Association for the Reconstruction of Afghanistan) have supported rug-weaving in the western part of the country, while ARC (Austrian Relief Committee) has flat-weave rug-weaving activities going on in their integrated project in Ghazni. ILO has voiced interest in women's rug-weaving as a sub-project in its manpower development plans for Afghanistan.

In both the camps and Afghanistan, participants have noted that project activities in embroidery, rug-weaving, etc., have helped to preserve and/or revive traditions that have been on the verge of being lost or at least weakened due to the many years of war and social unrest.

Working with urban female refugees are a few excellent training centers run by Afghan women in Peshawar and Islamabad which provide instruction in tailoring, knitting, etc. In Peshawar these include AWRC (Afghan Women's Resource Center) and AWWP (Afghan Women's Welfare Department), while in Islamabad AWEC (Afghan Women's Educational Center) is active. Day-care facilities for the children of attending women are also present.

And in the Afghan urban centers of Kabul, Mazar Sharif, and Tashqarghan (Khulm), UNICEF/Kabul has sponsored a tailoring/ embroidery project for widows and poor women who have been contacted by a survey team from the Afghan Women's Council. Supplies, 10 meters of cloth, and a sewing machine are distributed to each participant. To date, approximately 200 women have taken part, and some are active in training others in their communities.

INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO UNITED NATIONS PROJECTS
AND PROGRAMMES IN AFGHANISTAN

I. INTRODUCTION:

Presented here is a summary of recent fieldwork undertaken in Pakistan pertaining to how women's participation in United Nations projects and programmes in Afghanistan can be enhanced.

The initial Terms of Reference for this consultancy are included in Appendix A. These have changed significantly due to recent changes in the Afghan government and subsequent changes in the official policy towards women and their participation in the public sphere. Rather than prepare a WID Project Document, I am now going to be part of the Afghan Rehabilitation Strategy (UNORSA) team.

The sector reviews presented below are very general in nature. My future participation in rehabilitation strategy team efforts will hopefully allow for more sector-specific and region-specific suggestions as to how women can become more active in assisting in their country's development.

II. FIELD METHODOLOGY:

During the period of May-July 1992 I conducted interviews with a number of UN staff members in Islamabad, Peshawar, and Quetta. In addition, individuals in a variety of expatriate and Afghan NGOs were contacted. The general topic of how Afghan women were presently participating in their projects and programmes was discussed, along with how this could be enhanced in the future. Appendix B contains a listing of all individuals contacted.

In addition, discussions were held with UN and NGO personnel concerning possible dispersal of money in the Nordic Fund which is specifically earmarked to help Afghan women.

I had originally anticipated also conducting fieldwork in

UNIDO/Kabul has been supporting the renovation of the buildings of the Afghan Women's Association (Mermon-i-Tolana); this has also included the construction of a new kitchen and equipping a large tailoring center. The Afghan Women's Association has had an emporium where they sell their handicrafts, many of which are also exported. At present, however, the status of this organization is very indefinite.

Food Preparation:

A bakery project which was to be sponsored by UNICEF/Kabul but is now postponed due to recent unrest in the capital holds much potential. This was to be established in the kitchen of the Afghan Women's Council. Some 60 poor urban women were to have been employed in the baking of cookies/buscuits and breads, while 40 others were to have sold the baked goods in outlets throughout Kabul (Microrayon, Khair Khona, and the Old City). It is hoped that this undertaking can resume at a later date.

In the refugee camps of Pakistan, the Afghan NGO, AWRC (Afghan Women's Resource Center) wants to provide women with practical income generating skills they could use after their return to Afghanistan. At present they are planning a small project in cookie/buscuit-making, which the women could sell with the help of their children and husbands in their home communities following their return.

Intersectoral Linkages:

Many of the projects in income generation also have ad hoc education components--usually of basic literacy. While women are assembled, or individually, basics of reading and numeracy are taught also.

In the refugee camps of Balochistan, EIL has developed a novel method of teaching literacy in conjunction with embroidery activities. Women and their young daughters, who often accompany them, are given individual patterns of the alphabet to embroider, and large cloths are created from the products. These make excellent wall charts, which can also be utilized in classrooms.

The training centers of AWEC, AWRC, and AWWP also have more formal classes in literacy which women can attend after instruction in tailoring, etc.

Micro-enterprise Training:

IRC (International Rescue Committee) in Peshawar has been providing training in business administration/ micro-enterprises for urban refugee women. This is a 2-month course, and participating women have set up enterprises in french fries/chips

production, garments, etc.

At present Nancy Dupree at ARIC (Afghanistan Resource Information Center) in Peshawar is planning a general micro-enterprise pilot project for women in Peshawar which can later be implemented in Afghanistan. A comprehensive course in micro-enterprises, including credit access/small loans, and development of local markets is being established. Many urban refugee women in Peshawar will not be returning to Afghanistan as soon as their rural counterparts and, in the interim, they can benefit from workshops in this important area of income generation.

A few NGOs have set up small-scale revolving loan funds which include women as participants. NRC and IRC have had success with this undertaking, and SCF/USA is hoping to establish such a fund in the future.

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In the urban centers of Peshawar, Quetta, and Islamabad hundreds of educated Afghan women professionals are found, many of whom are actively participating in the work force. In the cities of Afghanistan a similar situation exists, although the new government's policy towards working women is somewhat unclear at present. AWRC in Peshawar has more than 500 refugee women registered in their employment office; approximately half of these individuals are teachers, while other major professional categories include engineers, doctors, nurses, veterinarians, pharmacists, etc. Many of these women are presently working in positions not related to their educational background, however.

The provision of income for their families by women working in the public sphere is crucial, and these individuals' potential roles in the rehabilitation of their nation are extensive. It is hoped that the new government's policy towards female employment in the public sphere is supportive. If so, there are many additional projects and programmes which could be developed.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. It is best to establish income generation projects involving women in areas where previous development undertakings have been active. Thus the community knows the implementing organization and, hopefully, trusts it.

2. Prior to establishing a project, rapid research should be conducted to discover what women's income generating activities are traditionally, along with what the felt needs of both women and men are in this area. It is best to begin with inputs which improve traditional practices before introducing totally novel ones.

3. Initial activities should be low-key and small-scale. Participants should be able to see positive results in a short period of time. Efforts should be focussed at the family or household unit and, if possible, husbands, wives, and children all may be involved in the process. For example, wives may work in home-based production while their husbands and/or children are active in marketing.

4. Efforts should be made to improve and/or develop local markets rather than create a dependency upon international ones which necessitate intricate networks of exchange. The value of NGO activities which have such international networks in place is also extensive, however.

5. Training should be an important aspect of projects in income generation. This should be practical and hands-on in orientation. When accepted by the community, basic literacy and numeracy inputs should also be included.

6. In conservate areas, house-to-house approaches may be of necessity. If women may assemble at a local leaders' home, this should be encouraged. Small production units may also be established in rented homes if the community is supportive of such. Interestingly, in recent interviews, a female leader from one of the most conservative Afghan parties in Peshawar advocated the development of small fabrika (factories) for poor women.

7. Where possible, and perhaps in conjunction with similar schemes for males, small-scale credit schemes/revolving loan funds should be developed for active workers. In many communities women have traditionally developed such revolving loans, and these should be enhanced.

8. In the case of embroidery and rug-weaving, care should be taken that women do not work so hard that their health is adversely affected. Many hours spent in intricate embroidery work in poor light affects eyesight; rug-weaving in cold and dusty rooms results in spine problems and often TB. Women should be aware of these factors, and working conditions should be carefully monitored.

9. Short-term consultants should be hired in product and market research and development. Novel ideas for women's income generation should be introduced where possible. For example, silk screening of cloth in decorative patterns or in poster production could be initiated.

F. EDUCATION:

In spite of the fact that female education is a sensitive issue among Afghans, there are a number of important activities in progress in this sector which deserve encouragement and support.

There is great divergence in views among both men and women concerning the education of females. These are largely determined by interpretations of a religious nature and concern what people consider to be suitable roles for Muslim females. In addition, the content of education per se may be perceived as foreign, non-Muslim, political, and an outside threat to the community. This has been the perception in many settings throughout Afghanistan during the last 14 years of war with respect to attempts at education projects on the part of the Kabul regime, and also in many refugee camps with respect to attempts at education projects on the part of some NGOs, etc.

However, a large proportion of both urban and rural Afghans do realise the crucial importance of education for girls (and, to a lesser extent, women). It is often noted that the key to successful implementation of projects lies in the specific approach. If accompanied by religious instruction (Islamia, teaching of the Quran and Hadith, etc.), secular subjects also stand good chance in being accepted by the local populace even in the area of female education. "If religion is included, this is our kind of education--not that of anyone else," was a response I often received in discussions. Separate classes for females are also required in most cases--certainly after primary classes--and female teachers are also very important for successful projects.

Important to note is the fact that in Peshawar one of the most conservative political parties, Hezb-i-Islami, also sponsors the largest number of girls' schools for Afghans in the city. Thus the desire for female education exists for some sectors of the populace, regardless of political orientation and, although not a very good choice as an entry point for projects involving female participation, this is an undertaking which cannot be forgotten.

Classes in Basic Literacy:

On a low-key level and in a culturally sensitive way, classes in basic literacy are being conducted for interested women and girls in the refugee camps, sometimes in the context of income generation projects. In NWFP, NGOs such as SCF/USA, IRC, and AWRC are active, while in Balochistan EIL sponsors classes. A community's permission is of course of primary importance before such classes can begin, and usually the organization has worked for a considerable time in other sectors before beginning

this form of education.

In the city of Peshawar, the Afghan NGO training centers of AWRC and AWWP have classes in basic literacy which are filled with young and middle-aged women. In Quetta, the Shuhada Clinic also sponsors such a class in conjunction with its Ariana Primary School for Girls. And, in Islamabad at AWEC, similar activities exist. A Literacy Task Force of interested NGOs also exists to coordinate curricula and provide a forum for discussion.

UNICEF/Kabul has been active in assisting the previous Ministry of Education/Literacy Department with its classes in basic literacy for women throughout the city. UNICEF furnishes transportation and supplies (chalk, notebooks, pencils, etc.), while the ministry provides the teachers. The Women's Council carried out a survey to determine where there was significant interest, and many classes were set up in homes. There is motivation among many women, and they often attend classes with their small infants in tow. Participants note that they can now read letters from relatives, along with bus and street signs.

General Education:

Primary schools for refugee girls exist in the camps and in the cities of Peshawar and Quetta, along with a few secondary institutions.

Within Afghanistan itself, SCA (Swedish Committee) is very active, and this NGO has a special unit for female education in its offices in Peshawar. It pays salaries and provides books for a total of 120 girls' schools in a total of 14 provinces throughout the country. Out of a total of 87,000 students attending SCA schools in Afghanistan, some 7,000 are female. Requests are usually received from local communities themselves.

In Ghazni, the Shuhada Clinic receives UNESCO assistance to support its 21 schools for girls; about half of these are permanent buildings, while the other half are tent structures or open-air classrooms.

Another Afghan NGO, MSOA (Muslim Sisers Organization for Afghanistan), also has networks of girls' schools in Paktia and Wardak. Recently they have sent teams of female educators to Jalalabad and Kabul to explore opportunities for expansion. It is also active in female education among the Afghan refugee populations of both Pakistan and Iran.

Recently an Afghan Basic Education Women's Group has been formed in Peshawar which coordinates with a similar male group. This group reviews the great variety of primary school texts which are presently being used in Afghan schools in an attempt to provide some consistency in curricula and content for the future.

Among the urban refugee population, some NGOs offer more advanced classes for women. AWEC in Islamabad provides classes in English and computers/offfice management; IRC in Peshawar provides English, public administration/microenterprises, teacher training, etc.

In Peshawar MSOA is known as the women's university. It offers courses in literature, religion, medicine, education, and science. In the area of higher education, its should also be noted that in recent years the majority of students at Kabul University have been female.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Although a sensitive subject, female education has support among Afghans and should be supported wherever and whenever possible. At all levels religious education and secular education can be integrated.

2. Extra reading material should be developed for basic literacy classes and primary classes. Magazines, story-books, etc., should be produced, with special consideration for the age and status of the reader.

3. Vocational education/training is an area of importance too. Intersectoral links between education and income generation could be forged with the development of a project in which women could be involved in chalk production, wooden slate (takhti) production, the sewing of school uniforms and book bags, etc.

4. Secondary and higher education for females is crucial. The official policy of the new government in Kabul is still uncertain at this point, however.

G. THE DISABLED:

It is estimated that there are approximately 100,000 disabled Afghan women. Thus the need for projects aiding the disabled which also involve women as beneficiaries is especially pressing.

Among the refugee camps, disabled men and women are identified by Radda Barna (Swedish Save the Children) and SCF/UK. The Sandy Gall Fund is working with both male and female disabled in the camps, and the coordinating organization for NGOs, ACBAR (Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief), has a taskforce for the disabled which meets monthly. UNHCR has organized physical therapy training classes and out of a group of 30 only two were

female. The Afghan NGO, FWSAD (Free Welfare Society for Afghan Disabled) has voiced interest in working with more female disabled in the future.

Inside Afghanistan, DAP (Disabled Afghans Project)/UNDP is active in Takhar, Wardak and, most recently, Balkh. In Takhar they have recently begun a women's component in an on-going integrated project for the disabled which includes physical therapy and orthopaedic services (Sandy Gall Fund), a component for the blind (SERVE), community mobilization/social animators training (Radda Barna), and vocational training (ILO). Recently shuras (leadership councils) from the communities in the vicinity of Taloqan have signed agreements with DAP that they will be able to provide services "to all members, irrespective of gender, ethnic group," etc.

A middle-aged expatriate physical therapist has recently arrived in Taloqan, and she is now training two local female social animators in outreach and physical therapy skills. The initial request to deal with female disabled came from the local population, after they had observed and appreciated the work of DAP for male disabled. The women's component will be introduced in other localities after this pilot project has gleaned some more experience in Takhar.

In Kabul itself, ILO employs a number of female field staff--employment support workers and community-based skills development workers. These women identify the disabled in their homes, work with them, and also conduct job placement in local workshops and other settings. Some 11% of the beneficiaries are female at present.

They are planning to expand their projects in the future to include Takhar, Wardak, Balkh, Kandahar, and Herat, and they hope to include more income generation for females than at present.

ILO also works with the mentally disabled--both male and female--in Kabul, and recently a project was also begun in Mazar Sharif. Through broadcasts on radio and TV, a female staff of community skills workers was recruited, and they have already identified 45 disabled individuals (male and female) in their communities with whom they will work in their homes.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. These project activities are very encouraging, and they should be supported wholeheartedly in the future. There is a felt need on the part of communities for these services, and work with the disabled is an excellent entry point in both urban and rural settings.

2. A possible addition to the team serving the disabled is the

dai (traiditional birth attendant) who in many communities has access to the majority of the female populace. Another traditional health practitioner is the female shikastaband (bone-setter). Both of these practitioners often advise families on treatment for disabled, and they may have excellent skills in massage. Their cooperation could also result in the timely detection of cases of the disabled--especially children and women.

H. DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION:

Afghans in some of the camps of NWFP recently contacted the refugee Social Welfare Cell about women's utilization of drugs. The use of opium especially among Turkman rug-weavers is a traditional practice which seemingly has increased during their years as refugees. In addition, Afghan women may utilize tranquilizers due to recent pressures in their lives.

UNDCP (UN International Drug Control Programme) subsequently has developed a specific curriculum for a short workshop in order to make women aware of the dangers of drug abuse and assist those who are addicts. Workshops have been conducted in a number of camps to date, and additional groups have requested that the workshop be given in their communities too. A female consultant has organized these workshops and has developed a series of visual aids to accompany discussions.

In addition, another consultant has recently prepared a Master Framework for Training of Afghan Women in Drug Abuse Prevention and Support of Treatment and Rehabilitation.

UNDCP has produced an excellent series of silk-screen posters for use in workshops, etc. Some of these depict family scenes and the effects of addiction on the economy of the unit, etc.

In conjunction with activities for males, these efforts to reach Afghan women are much needed and should be expanded inside Afghanistan in the future. With all of the pressures Afghan families have to face at present, the problem of drug abuse is a threat to both men and women.

I. SHELTER:

Due to striking economic problems, lack of a sufficient labor force, and the many needs of reconstruction, in many rural and urban settings Afghan women are participating in construction of walls and homes.

Widows and very poor women may work for neighbors or relatives for cash, accomplishing tasks such as fetching water, mixing straw and earth, and constructing walls. In other cases women assist their male household members in their own compounds.

The UN Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT) in Kabul has been interested in the roles that women play in such work and has conducted a number of small studies within various sections of Kabul and the surrounding communities. Both Afghan and expatriate ♀ staff have coordinated with other team members in various projects. HABITAT is now considering how to incorporate women more in its activities in the future in its attempts to aid Afghan households in the monumental tasks of reconstruction.

With local community approval and participation, small-scale projects in which women participate in brick making, pipe production, and similar undertakings could be developed. Projects should be tailored to the specific needs of the community and sociocultural attitudes concerning the legitimate roles of women in this area.

J. MINE AWARENESS:

In the refugee camps the UNOCA-assisted mine awareness activities have reached many men and women. Both male and female Master Trainers are employed, and in 1991 approximately 21,000 women in Afghanistan and 28,000 women in Pakistan participated in the basic mine awareness undertakings (for males the totals were 1337,000 and 86,000, respectively).

In many refugee homes cloth posters illustrating mine awareness are displayed on the walls. Women also use these as cloths for household tasks. When asked about the messages illustrated, they respond knowledgeably.

The presence of mines in Afghanistan is a long-term problem and exposure to information about them should be enlarged in the future.

III. CONCLUSION:

Presented here are summaries of various UN and NGO assisted activities in a number of sectors which involve women. General suggestions have also been included as to how this could be enhanced in the future. As part of the Rehabilitation Strategy team, in September we will be able to be more regionally-specific and project/programme-specific in our recommendations and suggestions on this important topic.

Kabul and other regions of Afghanistan. However, this was not possible due to recent political events and I remained in Pakistan. Thus it was arranged that Homa Sabri, Senior Programme Assistant, UNICEF/Kabul, travelled to Pakistan from Afghanistan to work as my counterpart. Along with participating in interviews and data analysis, she has provided an important perspective on UN activities and issues pertaining to Afghan women which I was not able to obtain from fieldwork on this side of the border.

III. SECTORAL REVIEWS:

Presented here is brief discussion about a number of sectors in which the United Nations and various NGOs are involved in specific projects and/or programmes in Afghanistan, cross-border, or in Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan; focus is upon how women are presently participating, along with suggestions as to how they may take part in these projects/programmes and others in the future.

Both generic ideas along with specific project suggestions for both rural and urban Afghanistan are presented. Recommendations also include possible intersectoral linkages.

A. AGRICULTURE/HORTICULTURE:

Although much variation exists, Afghan women's participation in agriculture/horticulture is extensive. They are active members of farm families, and in many cases their workloads have increased recently due to shortage of farm labor. In the resettlement process presently underway, returning female refugees may also be compelled to take on work previously accomplished by males in the agricultural cycle.

Along with the degree of female seclusion, etc., women's roles vary according to crop, with generally more participation in such activities as weeding and harvesting of agricultural crops such as wheat and corn than in planting. In many types of horticultural undertakings, however, women may be responsible for the whole growing cycle. Raising of fodder such as alfalfa and clover may also be accomplished by women. Home gardens inside compounds or located nearby are very common, and sometimes they sow beans, potatoes, etc., on the edges of larger fields of their households. It is possible for a woman to work in nearby gardens and also take care of her children.

FOOTNOTES

1. Varieties of wheat have also been tested by FAO, involved NGOs, and villagers in Afghanistan and, interestingly, women's opinions also come into play here. Not only is the taste of the resulting bread crucial; it is also important that the bread dough sticks on the sides of the tandur oven and that it keeps its freshness with the passage of time (Personal communication, Anthony Fitzherbert/FAO/APO).

2. Laghman is of special interest as far as status of women is It is inhabited by Pashai or Nuristanis, and women of these communities carry on the majority of agricultural/animal husbandry work. Males do not traditionally undertake such tasks among this ethnic group.

3. Dais must be carefully identified for participation in training activities, with the most active and enthused being chosen. This is a specifically labelled role which women assume--very often out of economic necessity, but also because of altruism or because it is a hereditary position in the community. In general, more dais are found in large settlements, where a woman can supplement her family's income by attending a number of births. This is not possible in smaller settlements where births are more infrequent.

4. Afghan women's embroidery skills are extensive, with a variety of intricate types and styles. They can compete well in the international market, as some of the international NGOs have proven.

APPENDIX A

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A WID CONSULTANT

BACKGROUND

The 1992 Operation Salam programme for Afghanistan recognizes that Afghan women have, because of cultural reasons, traditionally been marginalized from the country's development process. Their active participation in society's mainstream social and economic activities has been stifled by their limited access to health services, education, training, credit and inputs, etc. Moreover, this state of affairs has been exacerbated by the upheavals and destruction resulting from the thirteen year conflict.

Nevertheless, it is also acknowledged that because of their sheer number as well as significant social, economic, and educational contributions at the house-hold level, the women of Afghanistan can and should play an important role in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of their country provided they have the means to do it. The 1992 inter-agency Rehabilitation Strategy intends to address some of these issues in a coordinated manner, keeping in mind the cultural sensitivities of the country.

In line with this approach, UNDP Kabul is planning to recruit a consultant for three months under AFG/85/012 - Umbrella for Consultancies to carry-out specific WID related activities described below.

PROPOSAL

The consultant will be responsible for the following:

i) preparation of a WID mainstreaming project document

ii) integrate women's concerns as well as introduce women related components in ongoing UN and, to the extent possible, non-UN projects and programmes in Afghanistan

iii) contribute to the UN Rehabilitation Strategy process by participating in discussions concerning WID and gender related issues and ensuring consistency of approach in all sectors

iv) participate in and contribute to the Gender and Development training workshop(s) scheduled during the 1st week of May in Kabul.

i) Preparation of a WID project document

The consultant will prepare a project document for a short-term (1 or 2 years) [illegible]

through the adviser will carry-out the following activities:

-continue the process of reviewing all substantial ongoing UN and non-UN projects and programmes to identify feasible interventions or redirections, in order to strengthen and/or introduce WID and gender related concerns in these same projects/programmes. The project should also ensure that an efficient and effective mechanism is established to ensure that women's needs and perceptions are systematically reflected, as early as the design and formulation stage, in all UN and non-UN projects and programmes for Afghanistan.

-maintain close contacts with all UN and non-UN donors operating cross-line, cross-border and in government areas, in order to coordinate WID and gender related activities in Afghanistan, and serve as a catalyst for increased assistance to women and girls. When necessary the adviser will prepare project proposals to take advantage of additional funds that might be available for WID and gender related activities and/or projects. He/she should pay particular attention to possible 1992 and future funding from Nordic countries which might be given in trust to UNOCA for this purpose.

-the adviser will provide gender responsive advice to the 1992 UN Rehabilitation Strategy process to ensure that women's concerns are reflected in the strategy. He/she will also serve as a WID adviser to the UN Resident Coordinator.

-the adviser will be the focal point of all WID and gender related training. He/she will encourage and organize follow-up training of the workshops mentioned above, in close collaboration with the UNIFEM Regional Resource Officer, UNDP training section and all the UN agencies.

-the adviser will work closely with a national counterpart whom he/she will train as local WID focal point to take over from him/her when the project is complete.

-the adviser will work closely with the UNIDATA project to ensure that gender responsive indicators are properly incorporated and analyzed in the provincial and national socio-economic surveys.

In addition to the local WID counterpart, the project will require support personnel as well as various inputs such as training and office equipment in order to carry out its activities. Although the exact number and qualifications of such staff will not be specified here, the overall project budget should not exceed US$200,000 per year.

The main task of the consultant will be to translate into a coherent and realistic project document with clear objectives, ... referred to above. An

also be provided. The UNDP inputs funded by the project should be clearly explained, broken down and costed. Detailed job descriptions of the project personnel should be provided as well. The project document should contain a budget as well as a bar-chart showing the timing and linkages of all project activities. In consultation with UNDP Kabul and the UNIFEM Regional Resource Officer in Islamabad, the consultant will also finalize and formalize UNIFEM's association with the project. Preliminary discussions have already been held between UNDP and UNIFEM on the possibility of integrating the US$ 97,000 already approved by UNIFEM for Afghanistan into the planned project activities.

ii) <u>Introduction of WID related components in UN and non-UN programmes in Afghanistan</u>

The consultant will start reviewing ongoing UN and non-UN funded programmes in cross-line, cross-border and government controlled areas to identify areas where WID and gender related components can be strengthened and/or introduced. With UNDP funded activities as his/her first priority, he/she will make proposals to the relevant organizations which will mainstream women's concerns. Furthermore, where necessary, the consultant will recommend the design and implementation of specific sub-projects. This process will ensure that women participate and benefit more fully from projects and programmes. The consultant will also lay the foundation of an efficient mechanism which ensures that women's needs and perceptions are reflected, from the design and formulation stage, in all UN and non-UN projects. These very important activities will be taken over by the WID project as soon as it is approved.

iii) <u>Participation in the UN Rehabilitation Strategy</u>

The consultant will participate in the 1992 UN Rehabilitation Strategy discussions pertaining to women and gender related issues. This activity will be taken over by the adviser once the WID project is approved.

iv) <u>Participation in the 1st Gender and Development workshop</u>

The consultant will participate in and contribute to the workshop which will be held in Kabul at the beginning of May. She will work closely with UNDP WID Training Consultant (Stephanie Urdang) who is organizing the workshop, and with the UNIFEM Regional Resource Officer in Islamabad.

The WID project, mentioned above, will also become, once it is approved, the focal point for all WID and gender related training in Afghanistan.

APPENDIX B

INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONTACTED TO DATE

Pamela Hunte
May-July 1992

UNITED NATIONS:

ISLAMABAD:

1. Martin Barber, Chief of Mission, UNOCA
2. Chandni Joshi, Regional Resource Officer, UNIFEM
3. Wendy Batson, Repatriation Consultant, UNHCR
4. John Morton, Sociologist, UNHCR
5. Gerard Viguie, Project Officer, WFP
6. Daniela Owen, Assistant Project Officer, WFP
7. Catherine Koza, Project Officer,WFP (Kabul)
8. Anthony Fitzherbert, Programme Coordinator, FAO/APO
9. Wynn Pratley, Team Leader, UN Rehabilitation Strategy
10. Alush Getahun, Programme Officer, UNIDATA
11. Tanvir Shahzada, Programme Officer, UNOCA
12. Col. I.W. Mansfield, Programme Manager/De-Mining, UNOCA
13. John Fisk, Programme Manager/Disabled, ILO (Kabul)
14. Bedh P. Upreti, Regional Planner, UNIDATA (Kabul)
15. Marie de la Sondiere, Consultant, UNICEF
16. Hammy Aklilu, Assistant, UNIFEM
17. Nemonius Danuor, UNV/Disabled Programme, ILO (Kabul)

PESHAWAR:

1. Robert Eaton, Programme Manager, UNDP/OPS
2. Michael Mersereau, Programme Advisor, UNDP/OPS
3. Bengt Kristiansson, Advisor/Disabled Project, UNDP/OPS
4. Fathi Zammit, Irrigation Engineer, UNDP/OPS
5. Wayne Bauman, Agriculturalist, UNDP/OPS
6. George Dobbs, Engineer, UNDP/OPS
7. Viavo Akran, Engineer, UNV/UNDP/OPS (Mazar Sharif)
8. Dr. Mehraban, Veterinary/Livestock, UNDP/OPS
9. Jean Lan, Programme Coordinator, UNICEF/APO
10. Suzuka Suguera, Project Officer, UNICEF (Kabul)
11. Bing Palliana, UNV/UNICEF (Kabul)
12. Homa Sabri, Senior Programme Assistant, UNICEF (Kabul)
13. Marianne Geuns, Project Officer, UNICEF/APO
14. Tanya Dirageeich, UNV/Disabled Programme, ILO (Kabul)
15. Paul Leclercq, Chief Technical Advisor, FAO
16. Andrew Pryce, Chief Technical Advisor, UNDCP
17. April Guagenti, Consultant, UNDCP
18. M. Adel Mandour, Project Officer, WFP
19. Jan Theunissen, Field Coordinator, WHO
20. Margaret Sinclair, Technical Advisor, UNHCR
21. Cecelia Ryberg, Social Services Advisor, UNHCR
22. Annika Janson, Disabled Programme Advisor, UNHCR
23. Chandra Devi Baral, UNV/FAO (Kabul)
24. Helen Demeyer, MCH Coordinator, WHO

QUETTA:

1. Robert Fuderich, Basic Education Advisor, UNESCO
2. Michael Mulcahy, Chief Technical Advisor/Vocational Training, ILO
3. John Woodford, Veterinarian, UNDP/OPS
4. Tesfaye Maru, Team Leader, UNDP/OPS
5. Zivan Damato, Finance/Administration, UNDP/OPS
6. Mary Am Shohadaei, UNV/WFP
7. Jailani, Sub-Office Coordinator, WHO
8. Suraya Kasi, Programme Assistant/Sanitation, UNHCR
9. Mooqi, Monitoring and Evaluation Section, UNHCR

AFGHAN NGOs, ETC.:

ISLAMABAD:

1. Mahbouba Karokhail, Monavara, Palwashta, etc. Afghan Women's Education Center (AWEC)

PESHAWAR:

1. Qasim Niazi, Laghman Rehabilitation Organization (LRO)
2. Fatima Yasir, Director/Women's Programmes, Hezb-i-Islami, Islamic Organization of Afghan Women (IOAW)
3. Haji Ghulam Dastagir, Director, Sayyed Jamaluddin Afghani Welfare Organization (SJAWO)
4. Shaima Chenzai, Vice Principal, Nahid-i-Shahid School
5. Najia Ziwari, Center Manager, Afghan Women's Resource Center (AWRC)
6. M. Moosa Rafey, Acting Director, Afghan Relief and Rehabilitation (ARR)
7. Jamila Akbarzai and Staff, Afghan Women's Welfare Department (AWWD)
8. Munhaj, Director, Muslim Sisters Organization for Afghanistan (MSOA)
9. Abdul Sattar Yousafzai, Executive Director, Emergency Relief and Services For Afghans (ERSA)
10. Shamsuddin Asmali, Rural Development Director, ERSA
11. Najiba Mansuri, Principal, and Najiba, Vice Principal, Malalai Girls' School

QUETTA:

1. Dr. Sima Samar, Director, Shuhada Clinic
2. Faiza, Morina, and Shahila, Teachers, Ariana Girls' Primary School
3. Engineer Mirza Hussain Abdullahi, Executive Director, Khorasan Assistance Group (KAG)
4. Dr. Yusufi, Khorasan Assistance Group (KAG)
5. Dr. Raza Nekmard and M. Nasim, Shahid Dr. Abdul Aziz Shakir

Clinic, Harakat-i-Mohsini
6. Atifa Zafar, Director, Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA)
7. Karimi, Administrator, Malalai Hospital
8. Dr. Fatima, Veterinarian
9. Khalid Farahi, Abdul Wahid Hamid, and Abdul Satar Farah Reconstruction Foundation (FRF)

FOREIGN NGOs, ETC.:

ISLAMABAD:

1. Michael Semple, Afghan Country Director, OXFAM
2. Carol Rose, Fellow, Institute of Current World Affairs
3. Paul Fishstein, Director, Save The Children

PESHAWAR:

1. Nancy Dupree, Senior Consultant, ACBAR/ARIC
2. Shenky Zahery, Programme Officer, ACBAR/ARIC
3. Jon Bennett, Executive Director, ACBAR
4. M. Shakir, Programme Manager, ACBAR
5. Gunnel Bagenholm, Director/Health, Swedish Committee
6. Mieke Platvoet, Director/Female Education, Swedish Committee
7. Zobaida Iminghas-Anfar, Education Section, Swedish Committee
8. Nasrat Wassimi, Agriculture Department, Swedish Committee
9. Patuni Hedayat, Project Manager, Save The Children/USA
10. Rabia and Abdul Ali, Handicraft Unit, Save the Children /USA
11. Peter Chamberlain, Acting Director, Austrian Relief Committee
12. Wiiu Lillesaar, Advisor, Radda Barna/Sweden
13. Afifa, Training Specialist, Radda Barna/Sweden
14. Philippe Truze, Director, AVICEN
15. John Myers, Project Manager, AVICEN
16. Philippe Bonhoure, Director, Aide Medicale Internationale (AMI)
17. Dr. Pascale Rapeaud, Aide Medicale Internationale (AMI)
18. Joanna Clark, Project Director, Save the Children/UK
19. Marilyn McDonagh, Save the Children/UK
20. Madeline Wright, Training Advisor, Save the Children/UK
21. Aftab Jamal, Health Coordinator, Save the Children/UK
22. Toc Dunlap, Deputy Director, International Rescue Committee (IRC)
23. Heidi Wagner, Coordinator/Female Education, IRC
24. Jamila Akbarzai, Instructor/Public Administration, IRC
25. William Thompson and Shukrullah, Health Education Resource Center (HERC)
26. Dorte Kanst, Sewing Project Manager, Danish Committee (DACAAR)
27. William Huth, Programme Manager, CARE International
28. Kim Le Blanc, Consultant, CARE International
29. Merete Taksdal, Health Advisor, Norwegian Committee for

Afghanistan (NCA)
30. Inger Gunnel, Project Officer, Norwegian Refugee Committee (NRC)
31. M. Kabir Salimi, Project Director, NRC
32. Elizabeth White, Director/Afghan Programme, Asia Foundation
33. Carla Grissman, Coordinator/Afghan Programme, Asia Foundation
34. Linda Tawfik, MCH/Women's Projects Coordinator, MSH (Management Sciences for Health)

QUETTA:

1. Jan Karpowicz, Director, Experiment in International Living (EIL)
2. Darlene Wilkerson, Income Generation Project Manager, EIL
3. Najiba, Zobaida, and Mahbouba, Field Staff/Income Generation Project, EIL
4. Fauzia and Shaheeda, Field Staff/Education, EIL
5. Matthijs Toot, Sub-Office Director, Save the Children/USA
6. Sarah Dobson, Project Manager, Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
7. Elizabeth Neuenschwander, Handicrafts Coordinator, CRS
8. Sadia, Handicrafts Team Leader, CRS
9. Mohammad Ali Gulzari, Project Officer (Balochistan), OXFAM
10. Myron Jasperson, Agricultural Specialist, Mercy Corps International (MCI)
11. Spozhmoi Achickzai, Secretary/Sociologist, MCI
12. Diana Davis, Livestock Consultant, MCI
13. Sally Crook, Health Unlimited (HU)

Collecting and processing of a wide variety of vegetables, fruits, nuts, herbs, spices, etc., traditionally were activities of many women prior to the war, and this has continued where possible. This work not only helps to meet subsistence needs but, where markets exist, also may provide supplementary incomes for their family units. The construction of large mud storage bins for grains of all kinds is also the work of village women in many regions. Many women accomplish these tasks as active members of farm families; others work for cash or kind on neighbors' or relatives' land.

Prior to recent unrest, women were also employed on the Ghaziabad Farm near Jalalabad in the harvesting and processing of olives and citrus fruits. Similarly, they worked near Khost collecting almonds at Badambagh and in the many large orchards and jam factories near Kandahar.

AGRICULTURE/HORTICULTURE: WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES

household gardening (pepper, eggplant, okra, carrot, tomato, potato, turnip, onion, leek, melon, grape, garlic, pumpkin, etc.)

fruit/nut tree raising

fodder production
field weeding
harvesting assistance
cotton harvesting, cleaning, ginning, spinning

food preparation
- drying vegetables (tomatoes, etc.)
- drying herbs and spices (pepper, etc.)
- drying fruits (grapes, apricots, etc.)
- pickle preparation (carrot, turnip, eggplant, etc.)
- jam making (pomegranite, apricot, apple, etc.)
- olive oil making

grist mill ownership/management

Rapid sociocultural research should be undertaken concerning how women in a specific geographic area are traditionally participating in agricultural/horticultural activities prior to the planning of a project or the incorporation of women into an on-going activity. Their needs in these areas must be ascertained through local interaction with them and their families. Care must also be taken as to not increase their work load by introducing new activities without prior study of their

present daily time allocation. Such background research can prevent problems at later stages in a project cycle. A number of potential areas where women's participation can be enhanced may be ascertained.

Seed and Fertilizer Distribution/Training:

In the area of horticulture, women can also be the recipients of seeds, fertilizer, and information for their home gardens. FAO at present has a general project in this area which includes eggplant, tomato, radish, turnip, spinach, potato, ocra, and watermelon distribution. For seed trials of relevant crops, women horticulturalists could also be involved. (1) UNDP/OPS could also integrate women into its on-going activities in this area.

With respect to house gardening, intersectoral links should be made with UNICEF in the area of nutrition/health education and also in food processing/preservation/storage/ along with possible packaging and subsequent marketing (see Income Generation section below). Classes in food preservation (apricot drying) have been conducted recently for male field staff by various NGOs such as MCI (Mercy Corps International) in Quetta; women should also be the recipients of such information where possible, and/or male field staff should train women in the field when possible. The introduction of improved time-saving technology/tools should be attempted wherever possible.

A number of NGOs have voiced specific intent in increasing the involvement of women in their agricultural/horticultural work. OXFAM plans to do this in central and northern Afghanistan, along with ARC (Austrian Relief Committee) who has just recruited a female staff member for this purpose. SCF/USA (Save The Children/USA)/Quetta is also considering women and horticulture in its work in Zabul and the Afghan NGO, ERSA (Emergency Relief and Services for Afghans), plans to undertake vegetable seed distribution (tomato, eggplant, pepper, etc.) for women in its integrated project in Nangarhar.

Tree Nurseries:

In addition to harvesting and processing fruits and nuts, women can also raise seedlings inside their compounds or in the vicinity of their homes. Tree types may be of the fruit/nut variety, or those for house construction and fuel, or those used for reforestation.

At present NRC (Norwegian Refugee Council) has a successful on-going tree nursery project in various refugee camps in the NWFP in which selected women in need raise fast-growing eucalyptus and acacia seedlings in their compounds; each woman receives 2500 seedlings. Four Afghan female staff members with

agricultural training are directing the project, which receives seedlings from the Forestry Department of NWFP. NRC later purchases mature seedlings from the camp women for 2 rupees each which are then planted in the deforested camp areas of the province. This NGO is intending to implement similar projects if and when it is working in Afghanistan in the future--perhaps in Kunar.

CARE International is also planning a similar activity in its tree nursery sub-project which is to be implemented in Paktia where they are presently working in agriculture and irrigation. Their approach is one in which wives will raise seedlings for reforestation in their compounds and their husbands will later plant them in their communities and surrounding areas.

UNICEF/Kabul had planned to implement a seedling project involving women in northern Afghanistan in conjunction with on-going FAO activities, although this has been temporarily postponed due to recent unrest in the capital. Widows are to receive fast-growing varieties of fruit trees and those used for fuel.

The Afghan NGO, ERSA, is going to provide interested women in two districts of Nangarhar with fruit trees of apple, citrus, and peach in an effort to improve the economic standing of family units in their integrated approach to rehabilitation of the region.

General Recommendations:

1. Links between the new national government in Kabul and the rural regions may be strengthened by developing ties between the MRRD (Ministry of Rehabilitation and Rural Development), UN agencies, and various NGOs which are now active in rural regions of the country. The MRRD's approach has been integrated in nature and has included a number of activities for rural women in the past which were implemented--albeit in a limited fashion--by female fieldteams. The new orientation of the ministry remains to be seen, but perhaps women's participation in agriculture/horticulture could be encouraged in MRRD with a low-key, culturally sensitive approach towards the rehabilitation of farm families.

2. UNDP/OPS should work in conjunction with NGOs with which it has on-going agricultural/horticultural projects and incorporate women to a greater degree into their activities. Two such NGOs are SCA (Swedish Committee for Afghanistan) and SCF/USA (Save the Children Foundation/USA), both of which have philosophies which encourage female participation and have extensive experience in this area in other sectors. FAO should similarly encourage a number of the NGOs with which it works--both expatriate and Afghan--to foster female participation.

3. A project entitled Support to Women in Agriculture and Rural Development is in the pipeline. An undertaking of UNDP and FAO/Kabul, it totals $200,000. Inactive to date, this should be implemented.

4. Assuming that acceptance on the part of the government and local communities exists, female agricultural/horticultural extension workers should be trained and should become part of UN and NGO teams presently functioning in the field. In this way, meaningful exchange of information could be achieved with rural women interested in participating in projects. These female staff members should be involved in pre-planning phases of rapid research, needs assessments, etc., along with implementation and later monitoring and evaluation.

5. Short-term female consultants who are experts in various fields such as food processing/preservation/storage/ packaging/marketing, forestry, etc., should be hired. This would allow information transfer to other women who perhaps could not have access to such if the consultant was male in the context of both the present government of Afghanistan and its rural regions.

B. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY:

Poultry:

Traditionally, caring for poultry is a woman's domain--an activity which can be undertaken near the household unit. Eggs and meat provide much needed protein for a family and, in many cases, women and their family members sell eggs and an occasional chicken for economic gain.

UNDP/OPS in Peshawar coordinates with a number of Afghan NGOs which have poultry projects within Afghanistan. Most of these transport their chickens across the border from Pakistan and then distribute them for a small price in Afghan villages. There has been introduction of new breeds such as Fayoumi, and locally produced incubators which run on kerosene have proved successful. SJAWO (Sayed Jamaluddin Afghani Welfare Organization) and WOA (Welfare Organization for Afghans) are two NGOs which are active in Nangarhar, Wardak, and Logar in the area of poultry; they include poor women as recipients of chicks and WOA specifically considers women as direct beneficiaries of their project.

SCF/USA (Save the Children/USA) has established a poultry sub-project for women in Ghazni and Nangarhar which is part of a

larger integrated project in agriculture, irrigation, and income generation in these regions. Some 150 poor women have recieved 15 chicks each, and there are plans to enlarge the project. Other NGOs such as IRC (International Rescue Committee) have fostered similar undertakings in the refugee camps, and they now hope that these will be transferrable into Afghanistan as the refugees and NGOs move across the border.

The Afghan NGO, LRO (Laghman Rehabilitation Organization), has made impressive progress in its Women's Self-Reliance Project in a region of Laghman which includes a poultry component. Having worked in agriculture and irrigation previously in the area, LRO now plans to enlarge its activities to include women of the communities. (2) Some 65 women have received chicks, and a team of male vaccinators is also active. Another Afghan NGO, ERSA, also wants to set up a similar sub-project in poultry for women in Nangarhar.

UNICEF/Kabul has worked with poor women and poultry in these communities in the vicinity of the capital city: Bagrami and Chor Asiab. It also has been active in Deydadi near Mazar Sharif in northern Afghanistan.The Afghan Women's Council (Shura-i-Zaana) conducted a survey to locate poor widows in need of assistance, and each received five chicks. Chicks were supplied from the FAO-sponsored farm near Kabul which had received new breeds from India. Prior to recent unrest, it was planned to enlarge this project.

Other Livestock:

Care of livestock such as goats, sheep, cows, etc., is often accomplished by females of a household. Food, water, and health care are provided, and women milk the animals daily. Milk, cheese, buttermilk, yogurt, and ghee add valuable nutrition to a family's diet, while some products may be sold locally. Rural women also spin sheepswool, and may make pile/flat-weave rugs, weave cloth, etc. from the substance for home use or market.

MCI in Quetta is presently sponsoring a female veterinarian consultant who is conducting research on Afghan women's traditional roles in the care of livestock. Findings from this work will be especially valuable for future project development.

Sheep and Goats:

Shuhada Clinic, an Afghan NGO with its head office in Quetta, has detailed plans to establish a sheep-raising unit in the vicinity of Jaghuri in Ghazni where it is also active in the sectors of health and education. Women in this region are active in sheep-raising and are not strictly limited by parda (seclusion) rules. Thus they could assemble at the unit for

training activities, etc. It is planned that poor women will finally be provided with five sheep each from the unit to raise at home. Self-sufficiency of the unit is anticipated through the sale of dairy and wool products.

Similarly, ARC wants to expand its undertakings in another region of Ghazni to include sheep-raising for women. They are presently working in agriculture and income generation. ARC is especially concerned with gender-related issues, and they recently held a workshop for their largely male staff about how to involve women more actively in their projects.

IRC is carrying out a goat-raising project in a few refugee camps which is considered very successful. Women are also provided with small loans in the process of receiving a few goats. This NGO hopes that such activities will be able to be transferred cross-border in the future.

Dairy Cows:

In the region of Nangarhar where the Afghan NGO, ERSA, is active, most of the dairy cattle for which it was once famous are now gone. Women were the primary producers of a popular cheese which was sold locally, in Jalalabad, and even in Kabul. ERSA now has plans to revitalize the dairy business by providing a number of families with one dairy cow each.

Bee-Keeping:

Apiculture holds promise as an activity in which women can successfully participate. It is important that the area in which it is established have sufficient flowering plants and trees in order to support the bees. Honey is a valuable substance in Afghanistan which can fetch a good price on the market; it is consumed with bread, etc., along with being considered a powerful medicinal substance.

LRO has detailed plans to set up a bee-keeping project in Laghman as part of its Women's Self-Reliance Project. Flowering plants abound here, and 80 widows will be the recipients of bees and hives. It is also planned that male extension workers will train the women in general hive upkeep, illness recognition, etc. This is an NGO from the local area, and thus contacts with women do not pose problems.

Silkworm Raising:

Siriculture has been practiced for centuries especially in the northern and western regions of Afghanistan, and it is women who have been largely responsible for the raising of silkworms at the household level. This is often a family enterprise, with men and children also participating. Mulberry trees are common today

in many parts of the country, and some households sell the cocoons in the local bazaars for others to unravel, dye, and spin. Other households handle the whole process themselves and produce a colorful silk used traditionally for chapan (men's robes).

Due to the many years of war, silk production has decreased greatly but the art is still able to be carried on if support is provided. It is a rather risky undertaking which requires some investment. Both ARC and Shuhada Clinic are considering projects in this area to be carried out in various sections of Ghazni where mulberry trees are found.

Fisheries:

This has been recommended by experts in agriculture/animal husbandry as a promising area in which women could actively participate. Traditionally fish is much desired by Afghans, although to date it is limited in availability. A fresh water source is necessary for fingerlings, which can be fed with the excreta of chickens or ducks.

ARC and SJAWO are two NGOs which have voiced interest in exploring the development of fisheries.

Veterinary services:

UNDP/OPS and NGOs have been active in establishing a cadre of male BVWs (Basic Veterinary Workers) which now exists in many regions of Afghanistan. These outreach workers are active in conjunction with local veterinary clinics. No female BVWs exist to date.

As noted in the Operation Salam Programme for 1992 (Page 14), women are to be trained in basic animal care and hygiene, vaccination of chicks, and disease identification. In regions where culturally permissible and a felt need, female BVWs should also be trained to serve their local communities. These outreach workers could be very successful in reaching secluded women and their households' livestock. Male BHVs should also be trained to contact women whenever possible about their animals' health.

UNDP/OPS, in coordination with MCI and other NGOs, is developing a practical clinical course for BVWs which will include new cloth poster visual aids developed by HERC (Health Education Resource Center) in Peshawar. The female veterinarian consultant of MCI is also exploring how to better reach women with animal husbandry health care messages.

INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO UNITED NATIONS PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES IN AFGHANISTAN

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